

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (cancelled)

2. (currently amended) An X-ray apparatus as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that the apparatus comprises~~ 7, further comprising means (6) for positioning the driving handle (1, 2) automatically in ~~its~~ a centre position when the grip on the driving handle is released.

3. (currently amended) An X-ray apparatus as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ 7, wherein the height of the driving handle (1, 2) is adjustable.

4. (currently amended) An X-ray apparatus as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that the apparatus~~ 7, further ~~comprises~~ comprising release means (7-9) by which the motor means (12) can be released operable by movement of said driving handle to release the motor means from ~~the~~ a driving coupling with the driving wheels (17), allowing the wheels (17) to rotate freely and thus ~~the~~ allow manual transfer movement of the carriage.

5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) An X-ray apparatus as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the height of the driving handle (1,2) is adjustable.

7. (new) A mobile X-ray apparatus comprising:  
a carriage having at least one pair of independently driven driving wheels;  
motor means (12) for driving the driving wheels;  
a driving handle comprising a pair of spaced side bars (2) rotatably coupled to the carriage along an axis of rotation (3) and a cross bar movable with said side bars (1), said cross bar being coupled to and extending between the side bars in an articulated manner to allow turning movement of the respective side bars to different extents and in different directions about the axis; and

means that move with each turning movement of each respective side bar (2), the movement of said means being measured by a measuring means (10) which convert the measured movement into electric signals; and

control means receiving the electric signals for controlling the motor means responsive to the electrical signals to steer the carriage in a desired direction.

8. (new) A mobile X-ray apparatus comprising:

a carriage having at least one pair of independently driven driving wheels

(17);

motor means (12) for driving the driving wheels;

a driving handle (1,2) movably mounted on said carriage;

control means responsive to the movement of the driving handle for controlling the operation of the motor means to steer the carriage in a desired direction;

release means (7-9) coupled to said driving handle and to said motor means by which the motor means can be released from a driving coupling with the driving wheels by movement of the driving handle, allowing the wheels (17) to rotate freely and thus enable manual movement of the carriage and for causing braking of the carriage, when the carriage is moved manually, by a further movement of said driving handle.

9. (new) An X-ray apparatus as claimed in claim 8 wherein said driving handle has a range of motion for controlling the operation of said motor means and wherein said release means is operated by said driving handle by motion of said driving handle in excess of said range of motion.

10. (new) An X-ray apparatus as claimed in claim 8 further comprising means for automatically positioning the driving handle in a center position when the grip on the driving handle is released.